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4-YEAR-OLD HURT IN MYSTERY

Hit-Run Car Theory Told

A four-year-old North Torrance boy is in Riviera Hospital today with injuries described as serious. How he received his injuries was still a mystery late yesterday.

Mrs. Carl Almanza, of 4239 W. 177th St., mother of 4-year-old Darrell Anthony Almanza, said yesterday that she had no idea how her young son was injured.

Hospital attendants at Riviera said the injuries were so severe that the lad's spleen had been ruptured and had to be removed.

MRS. ALMANZA said her son was playing in front of their home about 5 p.m. Tuesday when he came into the house crying, holding his side. She said the boy appeared to have been knocked down.

She took the boy to the doctor where it was determined that he had received a blow described as "a terrific impact." He was rushed to Riviera Hospital where the ruptured spleen was removed.

THEORIES that the lad might have been the victim of a hit-run driver was discounted by the mother, who said she had heard no tire squeal or anything to indicate that an auto had struck an object near her home.

The boy was treated for shock and was still under sedation yesterday and had not been asked about his injuries.

Police are still checking out the hit-run theory as the hospital attendants described the boy's condition as serious, but satisfactory.

Girl Thrown From Horse

A 10-year-old Hollywood Riviera girl was hospitalized Tuesday afternoon with serious injuries after she was kicked in the head by a horse in Rolling Hills Estates.

Bonnie Joan Littrell, of 144 Calle de Andalucia, reportedly suffered a skull fracture

Lomita May Get Library

New and larger library facilities for Lomita will be recommended by Supervisor Burton W. Chace to the County Board of Supervisors next week.

The new Lomita branch library will be located at 24407 Narbonne Blvd. and will have a total of 5,000 gross square feet.

Chace said that the library will be built according to specifications of the County Library Department and will be awarded to the lowest of three bids at a rate of \$1.90 per gross square foot per year. It will include air conditioning and a 15-car parking space. Low bidders are Dr. Meyer R. Titleman and Sidney J. Freeman, who will pay the real estate taxes on the property.

Terms of the proposed contract provide that the library building must be completed no later than Nov. 1, 1959.

Chace pointed out that completion of the library will provide a considerable better service to residents in the Lomita area. There will be 25,000 books available for circulation, 5,000 of them for children. It is expected that circulation of books will be doubled because of the larger facilities.

The present library, which is located at 24704 Narbonne Ave., will be abandoned by the County after the new facilities become available, Chace said

A Penny for your Thoughts

"A leading authority on the American family recently stated that marriage partners would work harder at making a success of their marriage if the divorce laws were stretched to cover such grounds as 'one partner outgrowing the other.' Do you agree?"

That was the question the HERALD'S inquisitive photographer asked several persons in Torrance this week. Their answers and pictures appear below:

Mrs. S. T. Witt, 1811 Andreo Ave., housewife:

"I think the divorce laws should be tightened. If it was harder to get divorced, there would be less broken homes. In fact, if it was harder to get married, there would be less divorces."

Richard Wall, 1710 Camino de la Costa, bartender:

"I disagree. Here in California it's a cinch to get divorced. And even in New York state where the only grounds are adultery, it's not keeping families together. If you make it easier, it would simply add more people to the growing numbers of divorced."

Dan Gilbert, 3939 Carfax Ave., L o n g Beach, store window display man:

"I'll go along with that. Any method by which divorce laws are made easier will serve to make marriage partners appreciate each other more. Co-existence is only possible when chains are not used to keep the partners together."

Bill Brown, 815 Amapola, machinist:

"No, I don't agree. They're so easy here now, it's a farce. If people did not think they could shed an outgrown marriage so easily, they would work harder at keeping it in good shape."

Ruth Wahl, 814 Patronella, clerk:

"Divorce has nothing to do with it. Regardless of how easy or hard it is to get divorced, the only thing that's going to make a marriage a success is two people really working at it. It is not up to the laws, but up to how the individuals involved are willing to put into a marriage."

City Council Told

Parking Meter Revenue Slumps

Plans of the city to convert downtown parking meters from one-hour to two-hour time limits received a set-back this week when City Manager George Stevens reported that the meter fund was "broke."

Cost of the changeover had been estimated about \$3000 for signs and conversion of present parking meters to the two-hour limit.

"Revenues have not been coming in as expected," Stevens told the council. He said current parking meter revenue was falling behind last year's figures.

Area Red Cross Coal Set

A goal of \$45,500 was announced this week by Ivar O. Hanson as the southern region's share of the \$3,569,423 being sought for the 1959 operation of the American Red Cross in the Los Angeles area.

Hanson, who is volunteer chairman for the Red Cross Fund campaign in the southern region, emphasized that this is approximately the amount that was raised in the fund drive here last year.

He also pointed out that recent demands upon the Red Cross in this area have been heavier than ever, averaging a call for help every three minutes and that reserves accumulated during the war years, which enabled the Red Cross to carry on traditional services without any cutbacks, are now gone, making it imperative to consider the 1959 goal as an absolute minimum.

TORRANCE'S share of the \$45,500 regional goal has been set at \$8500, which will be broken down into sub-goals of \$4500 in the residential division, \$2500 in the commerce and industry division, and \$1,500 in the business division, according to City Chairman Stanley Remelmeier.

Remelmeier, who is also serving as residential chairman, said that an estimated 500 volunteers are being recruited for the intensive one-day drive

FINANCE Officer Jerome Scharfman said the meter fund was sufficient to meet payments on the meters and on the two downtown parking lots which were being purchased, but he confirmed Stevens' statement that the fund could not support added expenditures at this time.

The fund is used to pay about \$1150 a month for the lots and has about 20 more months to go, Scharfman said. The payments on the meters are about through, also, it was reported.

A parking meter committee of the council was named by Mayor Albert Isen to look into the matter. He named Jay Beasley, George Bradford, and Nick Dralle to the committee.

IN OTHER action, the council rescinded its action of last week by ordering that the traffic control signal at Fern Ave. and Torrance Blvd. be kept at that location. The council had concurred in a traffic commission recommendation last week to move the signal to Hickory and Torrance Blvd. so it could be synchronized with the one at Crenshaw. Parents of children using the Fern Ave. crossing for the nearby school objected.

Plan Foods Course

A short streamlined course in food service sanitation is scheduled by the County Health Department to be held next month in Torrance, according to David Colfelt, area chief sanitarian for the Torrance Health District.

DETAIL METER RETURN

Revenue from the parking meters in downtown Torrance have shown a marked drop over receipts of a year ago, City Finance Officer Jerome I. Scharfman told the HERALD yesterday.

Last December, the city received \$2850 compared to \$4350 a year ago, Scharfman said. He pointed out that a two-week moratorium on meter enforcement during the Christmas shopping holidays ordered by the council cut sharply into the income.

However, with the meters back in action in January, the city collected only \$2100 compared to \$3550 during January a year ago, the finance officer said.

NOVEMBER receipts in 1958 were \$2400 and the November 1958 receipts totaled \$2795, Scharfman reported. He indicated that the increase about paralleled the increase in meters installed in the downtown area during that period.

Fixed costs charged to the meter fund are about \$3000 a month, he indicated, pointing out that the fund is going into the red on a \$2100 monthly revenue.

The city pays \$1150 a month on two parking lots out of the fund, \$530 a month for meter payments; and about \$1300 for

(Continued from Page 2)



AWAITING AID . . . E. J. Sharon, 66, of 1860 Torrance Blvd., is being comforted by police and passersby after he was struck at Cabrillo and Gramercy in downtown Torrance yesterday afternoon. Sharon told officers he was crossing Cabrillo in the crosswalk when he was struck by an auto driven by W. E. Bottom of 930 Arlington Ave. Injuries were not believed to be serious. (Herald Photo)

POLYNESIAN BURNS

Rains Hamper, Help Firemen

Heavy rains early Monday when the aerial ladder truck was mired down and had to be towed out.

While the interior of the building suffered damage estimated up to \$100,000, the exterior was damaged only slightly, it was reported.

Firemen were called to the scene about 4:30 a.m. Monday after owner Pete Reitz, who was sleeping in the office, was aroused to find the place in flames. He escaped by going out a side door and jumping over a fence. He then awakened another restaurant employee who was sleeping in another part of the popular dining spot.

THE MAIN dining room and cocktail lounge area was burned severely by the blaze. Intense heat pushed out windows of the structure with explosion force, firemen said. The kitchen was undamaged, and the Tapa Room to the rear of the main structure was damaged only slightly.

Firemen were directed at the scene by Chief J. J. Benner. Owner Reitz set out immediately to plan reconstruction of the restaurant which has become an attraction to all of Southern California since it was opened more than a year ago.

Seeking damages in court were Alvena Hayden, Long Beach, who asked \$100,000; her husband, David, who asked \$50,000; Eleanor Gordon, Long Beach, \$10,000; her daughter, Rokanne, 8, \$25,000; Della Summers, Levning, Calif., \$50,000; and Doyle George, Kansas City, Mo., \$25,000.

Chamber to Salute Broadway Tuesday

A "Salute to the Broadway" will be the feature of the February breakfast meeting of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce next Tuesday morning, Feb. 24, at the American Legion Hall, 1109 Border Ave., area business and civic leaders were reminded here yesterday by President Fred W. Mill.

Official representatives of the city's newest store will be on hand for the official welcome, according to Mill. Co-chairmen of the event will be Stuart Avera and John A. Ebbinghouse.

Reservations may still be made at the Chamber office.



IN SCHOOL SHOW . . . Dancer Suzanne Giles (center) demonstrates the Kaula Dance from the Islands which will be one of the features of the Torrance High School's 12th annual variety show tomorrow and Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Torrance High Aud. Leading support are Donna Moore (left) and Carol Johnson. The show will be a take-off on popular TV personalities. (Herald Photo)



ROTARY VISITOR . . . Dr. W. Valentine Henley (left), District Governor-nominee of Rotary International, visited the Torrance Rotary Club at its regular meeting yesterday. He is shown here with John O. Schmidt, president of the Torrance club. Dr. Henley, president of the College of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of Los Angeles, will succeed V. O. Walker as district governor in July. (Herald Photo)